

Trustees name new president of BMC

By William H. Perkins Jr.
Editor

Palkner native Barbara Childers McMillin, 52, has been chosen to be the eighth president of Blue Mountain College (BMC) in Blue Mountain, the school's board of trustees announced on May 17. She will replace Bettye Rogers Coward, who retires June 30 after 11 years at the helm of the private institution of higher learning affiliated with the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

McMillin is currently associate provost, dean of instruction, and English professor at Union University, which is located in Jackson, Tenn., and affiliated with the Tennessee Baptist Convention. She will become BMC president on August 1. Janice Nicholson, BMC executive vice president for student affairs and graduate/special programs, will serve as acting president for the month of July.

"This is a gift that is hard to imagine — being called back home to become a part of the Blue Mountain College family. This is all so very humbling.

Quite honestly, we never considered such a blessing would be ours, but we are delighted and grateful for this opportunity," McMillin said.

McMillin is a graduate of Northeast Mississippi Community College (Associate of Arts) in Booneville, Union University (Bachelor of Arts in English), and the University of Mississippi in Oxford (Master of Arts in English, Doctor of Arts in English).

While a graduate student at Ole Miss, McMillin was a teaching assistant there and an English instructor at BMC. A member of Northeast Mississippi Community College's English Department for five years before

see BMC
on p. 5

BARBARA CHILDERS McMILLIN

Methodists maintain stance Vote supports policy on homosexuality

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP and local reports) — The United Methodist Church on May 3 declined to alter language about homosexuality in one of the church's most important guiding documents.

By a vote of about 60% - 40%, delegates to the General Conference, the denomination's governing body meeting in Tampa, FL, maintained language in the Book of Discipline characterizing homosexuality as "incompatible with Christian teaching."

Methodists prohibit same-sex unions and expect clergy to be celibate if single, and monogamous if married.

The number of Methodists in the United States is shrinking while the denomination is growing in African and Asian countries where the church is theologically conservative, the Associated Press reported.

Mark Tooley, president of the Institute on Religion and Democracy, credited delegates from Africa, who comprised about 30% of total delegates, with upholding the denomination's official stance.

"Thanks to its global membership, United Methodism uniquely is growing in members and rejecting liberal accommodation of secular Western culture, unlike declining U.S. mainline Protestant denominations. Likely to have an African membership majority within a decade or so, United Methodism can anticipate a bright future ahead that is more tied to vibrant global Christianity than to dying liberal Protestantism in America," Tooley said.

According to the group's web site, the Institute on Religion and Democracy is a Washington, D.C.-based "ecumenical alliance of U.S. Christians working to reform their churches' social witness, in accord with biblical and historic Christian teachings, and to contribute to the renewal of democratic society at home and abroad."

'SHARED CONVICTIONS'



MITT ROMNEY

Romney makes appeal for common purpose across denominations

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP and local reports) — Presumptive Republican Party presidential nominee Mitt Romney acknowledged to a crowd at Liberty University's May 12 commencement in Lynchburg, Va., that his religious faith, Mormonism, and evangelicalism are different faiths, but he said people in both camps can work together on issues of "shared moral convictions."

"People of different faiths, like yours and mine, sometimes wonder where we can meet in common purpose, when there are so many differences in creed and theology," Romney said before the gathering of 38,000 onlookers at the school's football stadium.

"Surely the answer is that we can meet in service, in shared moral convictions about our nation stemming from a common worldview. The best case for this is always the example of Christian men and women working and witnessing to carry God's love into every life — people like the late Chuck Colson," he said.

Romney recounted a story Colson told about the days after Colson left prison: "He was assured by people of influence that, even with his prison record, a man with his connections and experience could still live very comfortably. They would make some calls, get Chuck situated and set him up once again as an important man. His choice at

that crossroads would make him, instead, a great man."

The graduates, Romney said, will enter a world where Christian beliefs are not always embraced. "Your values will not always be the object of public admiration. In fact, the more you live by your beliefs, the more you will endure the censure of the world."

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MAY 31 2012



From the editor

WILLIAM PERKINS

Toward tastier snacks

The news item was small and sounded highly technical, so much so that virtually all the mainstream news media passed on it. If not for several pro-life web sites that reported the item, we would not know that Pepsico, Inc., after an intense, year-long boycott by pro-life groups, had finally agreed to stop using the services of Synomx, a San Diego, Ca.-based company that specializes in artificial flavor enhancers for the food and beverage industry.

How did pro-life organizations get so involved in the minutiae of the food and beverage industry, and why were they so passionate about seeing Pepsico drop Synomx? Children of God for Life, based in Murfreesboro, Tenn., and several other pro-life groups alleged that

Pepsico, owner of such universally-recognizable brands such as Tropicana, Frito-Lay, 7-Up, Pepsi, Quaker, and Rice-a-Roni, was contracting with Synomx to develop and test flavor enhancers for its products by using cells from elective abortions — in other words, tiny bits of dead babies sold by abortion clinics to the highest bidder.

With regard to Synomx, the pro-life groups claim that the company is actively engaged in the use of HEK-293, a line of cells cloned and grown from the kidney of an aborted baby.

"Synomx boasts that they have 'discovered or in-licensed many of the key receptors that mediate taste in humans,' wrote Joseph W. Mercola, a board-certified doctor of osteopathy, on his web site, mercola.com. 'But what they don't state so plainly is that they used human embryonic kidney cells (HEK 293) taken from an electively aborted fetus in their product testing... Must they really use human fetal cells just to make tastier junk foods?'"

Mercola is a somewhat controversial alternative medicine

practitioner who promotes his own line of health products on the Internet, but he's right in speaking out against the widespread exploitation of dead babies.

We've heard for many years about the sale of baby parts as a profitable sideline to the abortion industry (www.christianliferesources.com/article/baby-parts-for-sale-48), and here's even more proof in the actions

of Pepsico and Synomx. This isn't noble medical research for the betterment of mankind; it's an attempt to make snacks and drinks more appealing to our taste buds. This isn't a ghoulish, B-grade movie from the 1950s; this is the literal ripping open of intact babies for their organs. These aren't the hysterical accusations of "dangerous, right-wing

anti-abortion extremists," these are the daily actions of a cold, clinical, amoral enterprise.

This is the reality of America today, where the sanctity of human life is held in such low regard that unwanted babies can be quickly dispatched, disassembled, and sold for profit; where the vast majority of its citizens — including Christians — turn away rather than acknowledge our role in this modern-day holocaust; where nothing — including infanticide — can stop us from seeking ever-tastier snacks and other trivial pleasures.

There's no doubt we will become even more ravenous for the flesh of our children in the years to come. Children of God for Life is also battling Neocutis Inc., which according to the group publicly acknowledges that one of the main ingredients in its skin care product line is a protein developed from the cell line of a 14-week old, electively-aborted male child.

Today, soft drinks and skin creams. Tomorrow, who knows? In an ominous way, the sky is the limit. It's a brave new world.



President wrong on marriage

The question of the black church's response to U.S. President Barack Obama's revelation of his views on same-sex unions should have a simple and direct answer. Congregations of the faithful might consider sending a letter to the President of this sentiment:

Dear Mr. President,

Your recent expression of your understanding of "marriage" is troubling to us. There are no tenets that can be identified as Christian that allow for anyone to view homosexuality as acceptable. The Christian faith holds to the Bible as the truth, for it has given ample evidence of being the very words of God to man. It is the Bible that reveals marriage to be a union between a man and a woman; it is the Bible that reveals all homosexual activity to be sinful. Therefore we would reject your so-called Christian understanding of same-sex marriage as uninformed and false.

Wide is the gap between what you and we are teaching our children — the next generation of American workers and leaders. Christian parents have a responsibility to raise their children to fear the Lord (Ephesians 6:4). Because the Bible reveals God's standards for right and wrong, there will be many times when the Lord's words come into conflict with human sensibilities. Therefore, while your daughters could no; imagine their friends' same-sex union parents being treated differently, you as their father would have the responsibility to tell them that their friends' parents participate in immoral acts, although they might be otherwise nice people. This should not be difficult for you to share with your girls, for we suspect you teach them something similar about their friends' parents who commit adultery, and about the subtle racism of some tax-paying Americans.

The use of your daughters' thoughts on this issue is interesting. It seems to be a political move intended to draw emotional sympathy with your position on same-sex unions uniquely. Certainly, as those who uphold the value of the family — where family is truth-



Guest opinion
with Eric C. Redmond

fully defined and practiced — we would expect that you would share with your daughters as much of your life, as the leader of the free world, as you can without compromising our national security. However, we do not believe for one moment that you gain wisdom on matters of this magnitude from your daughters' guileless, youthful comprehension of their experiences. Americans can be fairly certain that you would not say to us that you would stop drone attacks on our enemies because your daughters have taken a revisionist stance on the capturing and killing of Bin Laden. Instead, tenderly, we believe that you would say to your daughters that you must think about greater matters that keep you up at night.

Do not be deceived: Our votes will not come cheaply. Our mutual identity as African Americans is something we celebrate every time you laugh off the ignorance of those who question your American citizenship and when you make those long strides that have come to characterize your trek from Marine One to your home. Yet our confidence in your ability to govern the nation justly and equitably is not based solely on the contrasting ethnicities of your opponent and you. Yes, our ancestors made many sacrifices for us to have the right to vote. However, they also died while trying to stand for righteousness. So we can use the nil option in November, opting not to vote for you or the presumptive Republican nominee.

Therefore, we will not be giving you our vote this fall unless you reverse your professed position on same-sex unions. This would demonstrate to

see REDMOND on p. 5

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PERSPECTIVE

Take child sexual abuse seriously

By Janice LaRoy
Special Correspondent

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Having been a Child Protective Services (CPS) worker and later an adult probation officer with a specialized sex offender caseload, I can assure you that child abuse in the form of sexual molestation is very real.

I conducted hundreds of investigations and interviews with victims, child molesters, and numerous mental health counselors over the course of 10 years and yes, such child abuse actually exists in our churches — which should not come as a surprise, because our churches are made up of fallen human beings who live in a fallen world.

As I reflect on my experiences in Texas with CPS and as a probation officer, several thoughts occur to me that should help Southern Baptists address this critical issue.

First, we must recognize that the problem is real, not just "out there," but even in our churches. I faced this reality one day at the probation office when a man who had just received felony probation for sexual abuse of a minor walked in — and he was from my own church!

He had been a schoolteacher and very active in the life of the church. Even with all my years of experience, my initial reaction was to not believe this was really true, but it was. Not only did the terms of his probation state he could no longer teach, but it was made clear to him that he could never again have any role at church or in the community involving work with children.

I wish this were the only case I had encountered involving members of evangelical churches, but it wasn't.

Secondly, children are taught to trust their parents, other family members, their teachers, ministers, and those in authority over them. Children are abused most often by people they know and people they trust, not usually by some stranger in a dark trench coat.

There are various terms used to describe individuals who sexually abuse children, such as child molester, predator, and perpetrator. Each term represents the image of an individual who attempts to exploit someone else for personal gain using deception to carry out his or her purposes. These predators use

the victims' trust to gain access to their bodies.

The Bible says children are a gift from God. We are responsible to protect them from being treated as mere possessions to be controlled by the whims of the persons they have been taught to trust.

Thirdly, studies clearly show that child molesters are from all walks of life — there are no ethnic, economic, religious, educational, or gender barriers. Both men and women are abusers, and both girls and boys are victims. Child molestation is an equal opportunity destroyer.

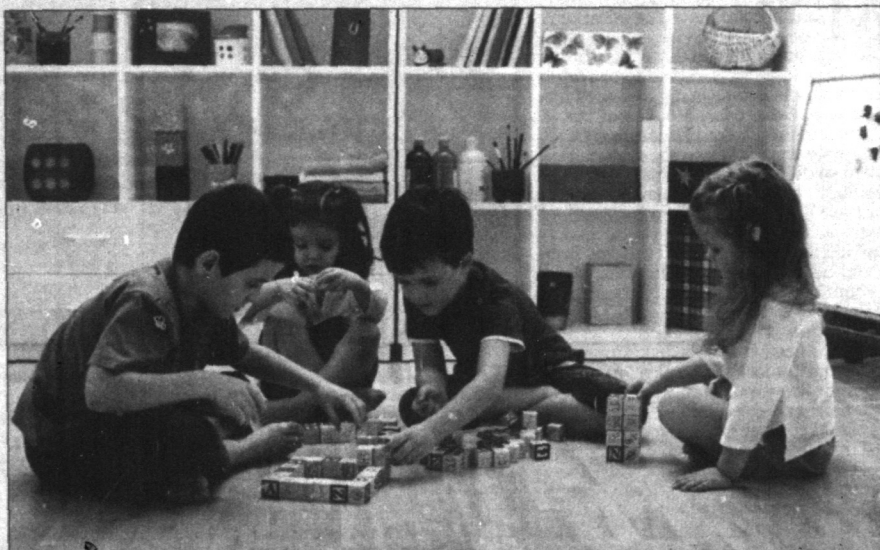
Fourthly, from my own interviews with perpetrators, victims, and mental health counselors, it is undeniable that many perpetrators have multiple victims and abuse them multiple times. It is clear that when given the opportunity, a significant percentage of those — Christians as well as non-Christians — with a past record of sexual abuse will repeat that offense. A person who has used his or her position of trust to sexually abuse a child simply should not be allowed to remain in that position of trust.

Accordingly, we must hold the actual perpetrator responsible for the behavior he or she has chosen. This is not denying the sincerity of a person's genuine repentance or withholding forgiveness — perpetrators can and should be forgiven, but they should never be allowed to work with children again in any capacity. Their lives can still be useful and productive, but their activities must be steered to other areas of their giftedness.

Lastly, the authorities do not expect church staff or other laypeople to have perfect discernment. You should follow your state's laws in reporting child abuse and, greater still, you should go beyond man's law and follow God's law in how we are to treat one another.

Child abuse is a tragic reality, but we can take steps to dramatically reduce the number of incidents and the shattered lives that result, and we have the responsibility to do the best we can to that end.

Editor's note: LaRoy is an office and editorial assistant in the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee's office of convention relations. This article first appeared in SBC LIFE, journal of the Executive Committee.



GUARDING INNOCENCE Churches can no longer be assumed a safe haven for children without measures taken to ensure that protection. Mississippi Baptists must have policies in place regarding children's and youth workers, and must stay tuned in to what goes on in those ministries.

Churches must protect against sex predators

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — He looked like the ideal youth minister. Recommended by a friend of the pastor, he was personable and soon leading a thriving ministry to teens at Wayside Church in Miami.

Looks were deceiving, however.

For months, he had been sexually abusing boys during sleepovers at his home. When the offense came to light, the church had its very existence jeopardized by a six million dollar civil judgment in favor of the victims. Eventually the case was settled for an undisclosed amount, and Wayside Church determined to do everything it could to protect children in the future.

"Now we do criminal background checks on anyone who is volunteering, and they put glass in all the doors [of children's and youth classrooms]," said Carrel Youmans, a longtime member at Wayside Church who taught youth when the abuse occurred in the 1970s.

Wayside is not an isolated case, said Patrick Moreland, vice president of marketing at Church Mutual Insurance Company. Church Mutual averages four to five reports of child sexual abuse each week from its approximately 100,000 clients, the vast majority of which are churches.

That includes roughly 9,000 Southern Baptist congregations.

Every church needs to have policies in place to protect its children, Moreland told SBC LIFE, journal of the Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee.

"It is common for a congregation to think, 'It can't happen here. We're small and everyone knows everyone,'" Moreland said. "That is not sound thinking when it comes to child sexual abuse. Most abusers are known to the child and trusted by the congregation. Child sexual abuse occurs in churches of all sizes and denominations and in all parts of the country — urban and rural."

Report abuse

If abuse is ever suspected, Moreland urges churches to immediately contact the proper government reporting agency and suspend the alleged offender (with pay for employees until the situation is resolved). The church also should contact its attorney and insurance company.

Representatives of the church, accompanied by a reporting agency official, should meet with the child's parents and, in the parents' presence with their permission, meet with the child.

"Reassure the child that he or she has done nothing wrong and that it was right to report the incident," Moreland said. "Allow

the child to speak freely. Do not coach responses from them and do not become defensive. You want the truth and you want to protect the child's wellbeing."

Prevention policies

Among the policies Church Mutual recommends to prevent child sexual abuse:

- Have all potential children's and youth workers (employees and volunteers) complete an application form. Look for irregularities. Ask for and check references. Conduct interviews.

- Perform background screening on all employees and volunteers who will have access to children. The screenings should be national in scope, since it is common for offenders to move from state to state.

The Dru Sjodin National Sex Offender public website can be accessed through the Southern Baptist Convention website at www.sbc.net at www.sbc.net/local-churches/ministryhelp.asp.

- Never allow anyone to be involved in children's or youth ministry who has not been active in the church for at least six months.

- Implement and enforce a two-adult rule. Never allow one adult to be alone with a minor. The two adults should not be spouses.

- Install windows in classrooms and keep doors open. Have a hall monitor circulate through the building during children's and youth activities.

Memorial Day is a federal holiday. It is not a religious celebration nor a calendar-driven event like New Year's Day. It is a day to remember all of those who have served to provide our freedoms and so many who died in the cause. Set the last Monday of May, it was originally called Decoration Day as flowers were taken to the graves of fallen soldiers from both the North and the South and they were remembered for their heroic deeds. Over a dozen towns across the land claim some part of starting Decoration Day all the way from Waterloo, New York to Columbus, Mississippi. Sadly, for too many people today this special, somber day has almost been forgotten except that it has become the announcement of the beginning of summer, Memorial Day sales, opportunities for fireworks, family gatherings, shopping, and races.

Would you pause for just a moment and think about those men and women, most of them at a young age, who literally paid the ultimate sacrifice in order for us to have what we have and be the nation that we are?

Jesus said, "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends" (John 15:13). No doubt many of the men and women who died for our freedoms did so with family and friends on their mind, and their own passion to do the right thing kept them in the battle to the end. Today, pause and think about the significance of these people.

Think about the Revolutionary War that brought our separation from Britain and created the beginnings of a new country. I so often think about the Declaration of Independence, that amazing document that is our birth certificate. Just over a thousand words long, it was signed by 56 men declaring our independence. That act that was so noble and thoughtful was followed by the death of 25,324 soldiers who died to seal the document.



A Moment at Memorial Day

Later in our country's history, think about the largest war of which we have ever been a part — the war waged against each other. Somewhere over a half million men and women died on our own battlefields as that conflict raged on. I would encourage you to sit down with a paper and pen and see how long it takes you to write to 500,000. I recognize, though, that you probably do not have time or energy to do that, so think about the Civil War in these terms and maybe you will have a new appreciation for what took place during those four years: If you took all of the people who died in the conflict, and averaged them over the span of the war, it would be nearly 600 people per day who died. Though a century and a half has passed, the loss and the scars of the loss continue to be a part of our national fabric.

Then in the first half of the 20th century, the United States of America joined with our allies in fighting two World Wars. In those two conflicts another half million plus men and women died so that we could be free and the world could have some since

of peace. Then there was Korea where over 54,000 died, and Vietnam where over 58,000 were killed. These are not all of the wars where our people have fought and died but when you add all of the wars together, it would be a number past 2,500,000 of mostly young people who died. That is why a grateful nation pauses to have a Memorial Day. I suppose the best way to remember is not to try and recall the 2,500,000 plus who gave their lives, but maybe to think about one.

For me, one of the first memories of my early years was the death of my cousin who was a fighter pilot. He died in the Korean War. I remember just as a preschooler going out to the airport and seeing him with his flight suit on and the big fighter plane that he flew. I was somewhere between four and five and I was, as you can imagine, highly impressed. Later we watched him take off and that was the last time that I would ever see him. Then I remember one night at supper nothing was said to the children and nobody gave me any explanation of what was taking place, but as we sat

down to eat neither my mom or dad could eat because of the emotions and the tears that kept welling up within them. Finally, they had to explain to some boys sitting at the supper table that their cousin had been killed in battle. Sitting at the kitchen table, I began to experience the depths of loss that can come from war. My cousin, who was in his twenties, was gone and life was final for him while I was in my preschool days and had so much ahead to live for and to accomplish. While I felt the pain of grief, it has taken me a lifetime to process the depth of appreciation I have for that one person who I knew just in passing, but I have never forgotten all of these years.

Since that time I have had other family members to serve and I have had the privilege of knowing some giants of courage and heroism that went to war for us. There is a sense in which almost every day of my life is Memorial Day as I recall so many of those men and women who gave so much. Indeed, they gave all for me. I live in a constant appreciation and deep gratitude for all of the men and women who have given so much to enrich my life and enabled me to be the best I can be to serve God to the fullest extent of my energies and giftedness. Apart from them few of the opportunities I have been given would be possible and virtually none of the blessings would flow upon my life. So I salute them and from the most sincere part of my heart I say, "Thank you." To each of you who read this, do so with thoughtfulness about your family and your experiences and this weekend I hope that you have a wonderful Memorial Day remembrance and celebration.

The author can be contacted at jfutral@mbcb.org.

ROMNEY

cont. from p. 1

"Christianity is not the faith of the complacent, the comfortable, or of the timid. It demands and creates heroic souls like Wesley, Wilberforce, Bonhoeffer, John Paul II, and Billy Graham. Each showed, in their own way, the relentless and powerful influence of the message of Jesus Christ. May that be your guide as well."

Romney said "central to America's rise to global leadership is our Judeo-Christian tradition with its vision of the goodness and possibilities of every life."

"The American culture promotes personal responsibility — the dignity of work, the value of education, the merit of service, devotion to a purpose greater than self, and at the foundation, the pre-eminence of the family," he said.

"The power of these values, this culture, is evidenced by a Brookings Institution study that Sen. Rick Santorum brought to my attention. For those who graduate from high school, get a job, and marry before they have their first child, the probability that they will be poor is two percent, but if those things are absent, 76% will be poor. Culture — what you believe, what you value, how you live — matters."

Romney then briefly touched on the definition of marriage. His speech came three days after President Obama declared his support for same sex marriage.

As fundamental as these principles are, they may become

topics of democratic debate from time to time. So it is today with the enduring institution of marriage. Marriage is a relationship between one man and one woman," he said to a standing ovation.

CLASSIFIEDS

GOSPEL CONVENTION JUNE 7-9TH OKA-HOLA BAPTIST 3600 OLD HWY 11 HATTIESBURG, MS FEATURING 20 ARTISTS. Thurs. 7th (6:30pm-11pm): Chronicle, Homecoming (guitar-style), Fri. 8th (6pm-11pm): Mark Trammell Q: 3:16, others. Sat. 9th (12:30pm-11pm): Perrys, Wells Brothers, Riders, others. Schedule at www.MSQA.com. Talent Contest Sat. 9AM register entry fee. For Tickets, Hookups, Booths, call 601-466-4343.

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Clue: K = R

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: John Twelve: Forty-eight

By Charles Marx, 1932-2004, © 2005

What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

HOUSE TOPS.

Matthew 10:27 NAS

May 24, 2012

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Communication Services.

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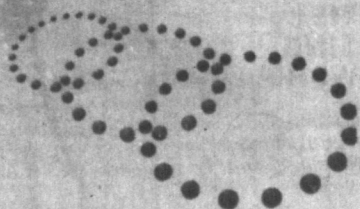
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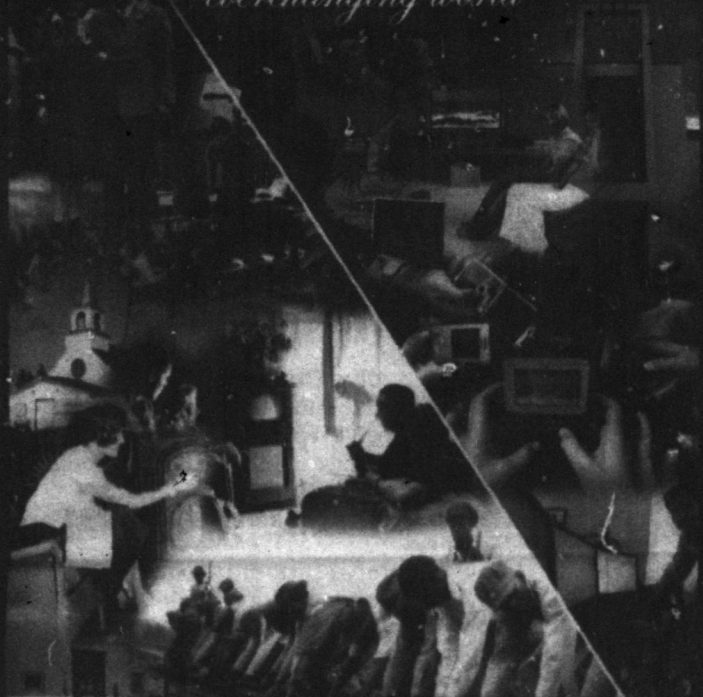
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July 14, 21, 28; August 11, 18, 25; September 8, 15, 22

Make your plans now to attend Sunday School training designed with the needs of your church in mind. Planning teams work with local church and association leaders in each region of the state to prayerfully determine the needs of your church. Each conference is customized with those needs in mind. Specific conferences will be announced as needs are discovered.

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- Blessing of the Hunt

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BNF Retreat 2012: October 5-6
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unexpected

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2012 North America Church Planting EXPO

When: Thursday, June 14, 2012, from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m.

Where: Brandon Baptist Church, Brandon

The North American Church
Planting Expo is hosted by:

Mission Mobilization

CALL 202.336.6 or e-mail lrhodes@nacb.org

Thursday, June 14, 2012

10 a.m. until 3 p.m.
with complimentary lunch
(registration required)

Brandon Baptist Church

100 Brandon Baptist Drive
Brandon, MS 39042

DEADLINE TO REGISTER: Monday, June 11, 2012

Take the 2012 EBC
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2012 Compensation Survey

www.GuideStone.org/compensationsurvey

Please help us by filling out the survey very soon. This is extremely helpful information for all of our churches. The survey can be completed in just 10 minutes.

Steps to take:

- 1) Get access to your church budget: salaries and benefits
- 2) Know the estimated weekly worship attendance or Bible Study attendance

All info is kept confidential. LifeWay and GuideStone are partners this year. Printed versions are available.

Contact Robin Nichols at the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board with questions, 1.800.748.1651.

Visit www.GuideStone.org/CompensationSurvey for more information.

Pray this day for...

May 25 – June 7, 2012

'And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.'
— Ephesians 6:18

Pray for a team of 31 from **George/Greene Association** traveling to Brazil to minister through church planting and construction, May 26 – June 3.

Pray for a team of six from **Union County BA** traveling to Southeast Asia to minister through a women's conference, May 28 – June 4.

Pray for a team of eight from **Mt Zion BC, Florence**, traveling to Thailand to minister through ESL, May 29 – June 7.

Pray for **Timothy* and Rebecca* Lightsey**, IMB missionaries ministering to American Peoples in the United States through strategy coordination, church and home outreach and evangelism.

Pray for a team of 11 from **Calvary BC, Macon**, traveling to Honduras to minister through evangelism and construction ministry, May 31 – June 8.

Pray for a team of five from **FBC, Newton**, traveling to Mexico to minister through evangelism and discipleship, May 26 – June 2.

Pray for a team of 24 from **FBC, Vandeave**, traveling to Costa Rica to minister through evangelism and construction ministry, May 26 – June 2.

Pray for **Asbury and Jeannie* Martin**, IMB missionaries ministering to American Peoples in Argentina through church and home outreach and evangelism.

Pray for **Robert* and Janice Moorley**, IMB missionaries ministering to European Peoples in Latvia through strategy coordination, church and home outreach and evangelism.

Pray for **Stephen* and Svetlana* Parsh**, IMB missionaries ministering to European Peoples in the United States through strategy coordination, church and home outreach and evangelism.

Pray for **Kevin* and Brenda Peacock**, IMB missionaries ministering to European Peoples in Canada through theological education, church and home outreach and evangelism.

Pray for a team of four from **Midway BC, Meridian**, traveling to minister in Sub-Saharan Africa, June 7 – 16.

Pray for a team of 13 from **Longview Heights BC, Olive Branch**, traveling to Ecuador to minister through construction, June 2 – 9.

Pray for a team of 10 from **Longview Heights BC, Olive Branch**, traveling to Canada to minister through construction and maintenance ministry, June 2 – 10.

*These International Mission Board missionaries claim Mississippi as their home state. The IMB missionaries listed in the HouseTops prayer calendar are currently active in 2-4 year terms or in career service.

Breaking News!

20th ANNIVERSARY REUNION

ALL FORMER MEMBERS AND LEADERS ARE INVITED!

Dr. Richard Joiner and Dr. Jamie Meaders
Directing the Reunion Choir
July 7-8, 2012; North Oxford Baptist Church, Oxford

For more information, send an e-mail with your contact info to: Susan Luttrell at sluttrell@mbcb.org.



BIVOCATIONAL RECOGNITION

The North American Mission Board is sponsoring a "Send North American Luncheon" at the Southern Baptist Convention in New Orleans, Monday, June 18, during the Pastors Conference for pastors, staff, and spouses. A special recognition will be made for all bivocational pastors in attendance.

The first 200 bivocational ministers to register will be free. After that number is reached the registration will be \$10 per person.

Steps for registration:

- Step 1. Visit: <https://snaluncheon.com>
- Step 2. Enter your personal information and under PROMO CODE, enter the code (BNAL12BIVO) and press APPLY.
- Step 3. Submit Registration
- Step 4. Print your ticket(s)

Contact Cathy Taylor in Pastor/Leadership Development Department for more information, 601-292-3305; 1-800-748-1651, ext. 305; or cwtaylor@mbcb.org

MISSISSIPPI WMU LEADERSHIP TRAINING 2012

August 9 — Church Missions Leadership Training
FBC, Starkville, Golden Triangle Association

August 17-18 — Annual Missions Celebration, featuring

- WMU Annual Meeting
- Associational Missions Leadership Training
- Church Missions Leadership Training at Garaywa Camp & Conference Center in Clinton

August 23 — Church Missions Leadership Training
Clarksdale Baptist Church

August 30 — Church Missions Leadership Training
FBC, Gulfport
Gulf Coast Association

Celebrate the Story

HOUSE TOPS

moving to Union University in 1992, she was named Union's Faculty Member of the Year in 1999. She is also former chair of the English Department at Union.

McMillin has also published "Christian Worldview and Literature" in the book, *Shaping a Christian Worldview: The Foundation of Christian Higher Education*, a collection of essays that address key issues facing the future of Christian higher education.

McMillin grew up in Falkner Church, Falkner. She and her husband of 29 years, Larry, a 20-year veteran of the automotive manufacturing industry and also a Tippah County native, have one child, eighth-grader Sam. They are members of Englewood Church in Jackson, Tn.

BMC trustee chairman Carl M. White, senior pastor of Highland Church in Meridian, reported that trustees unanimously approved McMillin's selection.

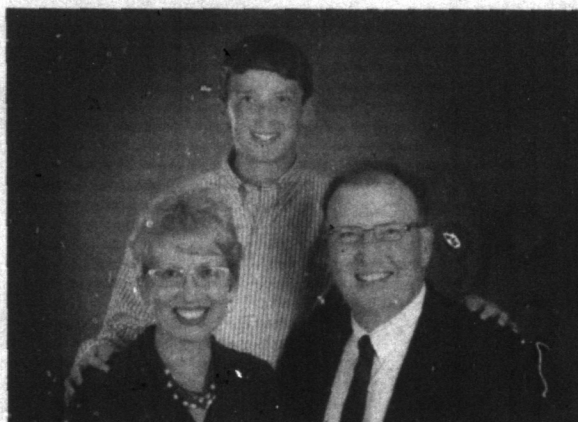
"Dr. McMillin brings a lifetime of devotion to Christian higher education," White said. "Her experience in the classroom and in administration has given her the background needed to be able to provide leadership for our school but more than that, she brings

a love for Christ and for the Kingdom of God that exudes a deep spiritual walk. She also has a vision for how Christian higher education should look and feel that is compelling."

Current BMC President Betty Rogers Coward echoed White's remarks. "It is a distinct pleasure and honor to welcome Dr. Barbara McMillin to Blue Mountain College as its eighth president. Her background, education, experience, and Christian character make her a natural fit for the key leadership role at BMC. I look forward to exciting days ahead at BMC under her leadership."

Jim Futral, executive director of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board in Jackson, said, "It is somewhat strange how we always seem to be amazed and at times shocked when God does what He promises He will do. He provides for His people. As Dr. Betty Coward announced that she was going to be leaving Blue Mountain and giving the priority of her attention to only two students — her grandchildren — people wondered who could possibly take her place."

"The diligent and prayerful search reached far and wide only to discover Dr. Barbara Childers McMillin, whose roots reach deep into the North Mississippi soil in every way. Whether it is family, friends, faith, or the formation of the core of who she is, she reflects



BARBARA (seated left), Larry (seated right), and Sam McMillin

the fine qualities that we would hope all of our Mississippi Baptists folks would have.

"I am reminded of how recently I was preparing to speak at a church on their 100th anniversary. Researching what was happening 100 years ago, I came across a list of deaths that had taken place in that year a century ago. One great person after another had died and no doubt everyone was wondering if anyone could ever take their place."

"Then as I came to the births that occurred that year and began to look at the names, there were 10 times as many great people who came along to

lead, inspire, and bless. We are amazed at the past as we anticipate the future."

Union University President David S. Dockery wrote on the school's web site, "We are happy for our colleague and our sister institution. Dr. McMillin will bring exceptional experience to this role, both as a talented classroom teacher and conscientious administrator."

"She is a person of extraordinary character and exemplary professionalism. I am excited about the fresh vision she will bring to the work of Blue Mountain College in the days ahead. The entire Union community joins me in wishing God's best

for Barbara and Blue Mountain College in the days ahead."

McMillin, like Coward preceding her, will be the only female president of an institution of higher learning in the Southern Baptist Convention.

According to the school's web site, Blue Mountain College was founded in 1873 by former Confederate Brigadier General Mark Perrin Lowrey, a Baptist country preacher prior to the Civil War who saw the need to educate women after the war decimated the male population in the South.

The school was independently owned and administered until 1920, when control was turned over to the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

From its inception, the school operated as a traditional liberal arts college for women. In 1956 at the request of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, the College opened its doors to men preparing for church-related vocations.

On October 4, 2005, the Board of Trustees of Blue Mountain College unanimously voted to make all programs offered by the college available to male students, thus making the school fully co-educational.

Blue Mountain College is one of three institutions of higher learning affiliated with the Mississippi Baptist Convention. The others are Mississippi College in Clinton and William Carey University in Hattiesburg.

Need a light?

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life." (John 8:12)

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for Christ today, contact a local Southern Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

REDMOND

cont. from p. 2

us that you are a man of wisdom who has the good interests of the American people in mind, and who has the heart of the people of faith in mind. For we are not limited to an either/or option when it comes to suffrage, but you are: Either you change your position on same-sex unions or you will not have our

votes. We would rather throw our vote away than have to explain to the parents of our grandchildren how we voted for a president who sees marriage so differently.

Redmond is senior pastor of Reformation Alive Church in Temple Hills, Md., and a former second vice president of the Southern Baptist Convention. His commentary appears courtesy of Baptist Press. Redmond may be contacted at info@refalive.com.

Submission Guidelines

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital

printouts are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if submitted as a JPEG file via either e-mail, CD or DVD. Photos must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted. Cell phone photographs and other low resolution items are generally not publishable. Photographs can not be returned. Please do not attach photos with tape or staples.

All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, building, or object-only photographs will be printed. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. News items and/or photographs depicting benefits and activities for secular or outside organizations will not be published. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis.

Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.

Staff Changes

Homecomings

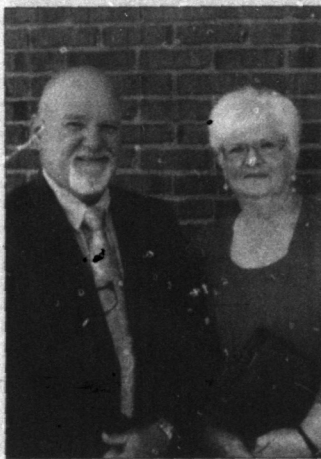
► **Arlington Church, Lincoln Association:** Homecoming, Mar. 27; Sunday School 10 a.m.; worship service 11 a.m., followed by lunch; Bob Lynch, speaker; David Montgomery, music; Mini-concert after lunch by David and Kathy Montgomery.

► **Shiloh Church, Big Creek:** Homecoming, June 3; Worship hour, group singing, and special dedication to late pastor Bill Wells, who served the church for 33 years, will begin at 10:30 a.m., followed by lunch at noon.

► **Center Hill Church, Hamilton:** 85th annual Memorial/Decoration/ Homecoming, June 3; Sunday School 9 a.m., followed by worship service 10 a.m.; Jim Harrington, speaker; covered dish will follow service; Terry J. Edwards, pastor.

► **Tiptersville Church, Tiptersville:** 100th Anniversary Homecoming, June 3, 10 a.m.; Jim Futral, speaker; luncheon will follow worship service; Thomas Magers II, pastor.

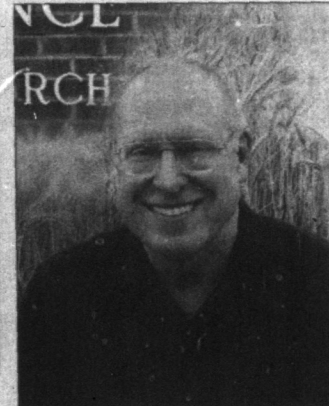
► **Calvary Church, Louisville:** Homecoming, June 10, 11 a.m., followed by lunch; Paul Blanchard, speaker.



LAKE COMO CHURCH, BAY SPRINGS, has called Dave Moran as pastor, shown here with his wife, Diane.



FIRST CHURCH, NEW ALBANY, licensed Jeremiah Ross to the Gospel ministry on April 29. He has served as student ministry intern at the church since September 2009, and has accepted the call to serve as youth minister at Lowery Memorial Church, Blue Mountain. Pictured with Ross are (from left) student minister Paul Sizemore, Ross' father Glen, and pastor Rickey Blythe.



DOCKERY CHURCH, CLEVELAND, has called J.B. Hays, Jr., as pastor. He also serves as pastor of Providence Church, Cleveland, and will pastor both churches, speaking six times each week.

MS POSITIONS

PART-TIME CHILDREN AND YOUTH MINISTER NEEDED AT MARS HILL BAPTIST CHURCH IN SUMMIT, MS. Please e-mail resumes to info@marshill-bc.org or mail them to "MHBC Search Committee" at 6145 N. Greensburg Rd., Summit, MS 39666. For more information, please contact Mars Hill at 601-567-2550.

FSC PURVIS, MS IS LOOKING FOR A STUDENT MINISTER. Currently have a core group of 40-50 students • State of the art Youth Building that will accommodate 200 students • Open door to 4A High School and Middle School • Strong Church support for Youth Ministry. Email: resumes@fscpurvis.org

ZION HILL BAPTIST CHURCH, WESSON, MS IS SEEKING A PART-TIME YOUTH MINISTER. Please send resumes to Zion Hill Baptist Church, Attention: Youth Minister Search Committee 8081 Martinsville, Rd., Wesson, MS 39191 or email brotherlton@zionhillwesson.org

LEESBURG BAPTIST CHURCH, RANKIN COUNTY, MS IS SEEKING A BI-VOCATIONAL WORSHIP LEADER. Please e-mail resumes to leesburgbaptistchurch@yahoo.com. If mailing: ATTN: Pastor Joseph Oster 796 Hwy 481 Morlon, MS 39117 www.leesburgbaptistchurch.com

BI-VOCATIONAL CHILDREN AND YOUTH MINISTER NEEDED. Mail resume to: "Search Team", Toomsaba Baptist Church, P.O. Box 487, Toomsaba, MS 39364.

SHILOH BAPTIST CHURCH IN SONTAG, MS IS SEEKING A BI-VOCATIONAL MINISTER OF MUSIC. Please send resumes to: Shiloh Baptist Church PO Box 166 Sontag MS 39665. Call 601-587-7653 for additional information and leave message.

FRIENDSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH, 1049 FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE, MCCOMB, MS IS SEARCHING FOR A MINISTER OF MUSIC. Send resumes to the above address marked Personnel Committee or phone 601-684-7003.

PLEASANT GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH, BROOKHAVEN, MS, IS SEEKING A PART-TIME YOUTH MINISTER. Please send resumes to Youth Committee Pleasant Grove Baptist Church, 2162 Old Hwy 84 West, Brookhaven, MS 39601 or e-mail resumes to PGBC@telepak.net Deadline for submitting resumes is June 1, 2012.

HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH IN NESHOB, ASSOCIATION IS SEEKING AN INDIVIDUAL FOR PART-TIME YOUTH DIRECTOR. Please send resume to dmp@phillips@gmail.com or contact Michelle Phillips at 601-507-7700.

EAST BOONEVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH IN BOONEVILLE, MS IS ACCEPTING RESUMES FOR SENIOR PASTOR. Candidates must be theologically conservative, stand on the inerrancy of scripture, and possess strong leadership and communication skills. Please send resume to EBBC, 4 CR 7015, Booneville, MS 38829.



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He Lives Eternally: Carry On • Luke 24:1-8, 36-40, 44-53

My favorite illustration of the importance of listening to God is a really good one... and nearly fatal! I went out alone to retrieve a deer stand for a friend. The area that the stand was in was very small and I had never had trouble finding this stand, even in the dark. On this day, I could not find it. I remember thinking, "God doesn't want me to find this stand." As a disciple of Henry Blackaby's Experiencing God, I should have known to take this seriously and walk away. I did not.

I reasoned that it was silly to think that God cared one way or another. I had not prayed for God's direction because I was perfectly capable of the task without His help. (What a jerk!) I persisted and God gave me to my stubbornness and let me find the stand. Mercifully, I was only about 6 feet off the ground when the screw-in step I was standing on came out of the tree. On the way down, another step hooked me under the arm pit and kept a considerable chunk of it. From my EMT days, I knew that the radial artery is the most immediate threat in that area and this wound appeared more than deep enough to reach it. Had I hit that artery I might have bled out before I could get out of the woods. I did make it out and 40

or so staples later I was on my way. Next time you see me, ask and I'll show you the scar. Its a doozy.

I learned to stay alert for and never dismiss the "still small voice". (1 Kings 19:11-13, KJV) Before Blackaby turned me on to Romans 3:9-18, I spent a good portion of my Christian life praying for a clear direction to God's Will and wondering why I had no answers? This week's lesson, gentle teacher, addresses why uncertainty plagues us and what to do about it:

Remember (Luke 24:1-8) In our passage the women that went to the tomb are reminded of Biblical prophecy and how it explained the situation. When you find that scripture or Bible teachings are running through your mind or you are struck with a desire to read the Bible or pray, this is always God's prompting.



Explore the Bible

with Kelly Mitchell

Trust (Luke 24:36-40) Do not hesitate. Through practice we learn to accept God's instruction. In our passage, about the last thing the Disciples expected was Jesus to appear inside the fortress they had made for themselves. When He did it was surprising but He also confirmed His identity. He still does.

Understand (Luke 24:44-46) The more you learn to recognize and trust the voice of God, the

more amazed you will be at how much He does talk. In our passage, the disciples were gifted to understand the Torah in greater ways than before. When you cannot discern Him anywhere else, pick up the Bible and start reading. Do not stop until you are satisfied. Daily time spent alone in God's word is key to maintaining contact.

Follow Through (Luke 24:47-53) From our passage, Jesus had a specific

reason for selecting and training these men. It was not just for their Spiritual enlightenment and growth, it was so that they could go and tell others what they had seen and what Jesus had done for them. If we have no intention of converting Faith to Works, we do not need directions on how not to grow.

It is clear from the state of the modern church that the average Christian has no intention of going and telling. This explains how two people can sit through the same church service and one comes away praising God and the other comes away bored and unfed. It also explains how some of us can manage to always find God at church, at work, and in our every day lives. When we want to act on what God has to say, He is always talking and showing Himself.

For Discussion: If someone does not know God's Will, what steps can they take? Is God clearly present in your Church? If we cannot find God in our church, where else is there? How do we bring Him back? What does Romans 3:9-18 teach us about human instincts?

Mitchell is pastor of Main Street Church, Goodman.

A Legacy of Love • 2 Corinthians 5:14-15; Acts 17:1-4; 1 Thessalonians 1:2-10

Both my grandmothers lived in the same town, so it was special to see them when we visited. No one said: "Get ready, you're about to receive a legacy." It came naturally as we observed traditional events together. "Stand firm and hold to the traditions you were taught..." (2 Thessalonians 2:15)

Words of "Interactive Legacy": LISTENING...to great grandmother tell about family, home and growing up. I learned respect. WATCHING...one grandmother make ambrosia with oranges from her back yard. I learned to be frugal. LEARNING...my other grandmother patiently taught me how to crochet and sometimes to pull out stitches and start over. I learned to do my best at every task. APPRECIATING...my dad when he showed me a bird nest with 3 blue eggs become 3 baby birds just outside my bedroom window. I love and feed birds every morning. HELPING...my mother make baby items for a new baby brother. I learned to sew for others. SUPPORTING...my pastor-husband by working alongside him in ministry, and smile and wink at him from the congregation. GUIDING...our 3 children to love books and Sunday School, study verses for Bible Drills, and pray for and share with others in GA's and RA's. LAUGHING...on the floor with grandchildren, feeding, rocking and singing songs about God to our great grands. I am so blessed! May our legacy honor You, Lord.

Love Compelled

2 Corinthians 5:14-15

This passage is about God's compelling love. If we are a Christian, that means we accept that Jesus Christ died for all of us. So, if He died, then our old self died with Him. The reason He died, was so that all those of us who live will no longer live by the world's

standards to please ourselves, but the legacy of love we received from God through Christ enables us to be renewed and we are grateful to serve Him. (Daily Study Bible) Do you feel compelled by God's love? Prove it!

Love Communicated

Acts 17:1-4

We need to share the good news of Christ with others. One way would be to support missions around the world. We are compelled (made to do something) to prove we are a changed person to others we know and meet. Be sure you smile and reveal the joy of Christ in your life. People will notice and

be open to know how they might receive that joy. Paul was on his second missionary journey, accompanied by Silas, a leader among his brothers in the faith. They traveled in northern Greece on the international highway called Via Egnatia. Their destination was Thessalonica where there was a Jewish synagogue. Paul went to the syna-

gogue on three Sabbath days and reasoned with the people about the Scriptures. He explained that the Messiah had to die

and then rise from the dead. I wonder if Paul took a deep breath and proclaimed with certainty, "This Jesus I am telling you about IS the Messiah!" Some outstanding men and women, and a lot of God-fearing Greeks joined Paul and Silas in their beliefs. Paul and Silas both communicated in ways to help the people understand the message about God. Think of ways you can communicate God's message of salvation and love to people. You might write these scriptures on a card or bookmark and always be ready to share these verses:

Romans 3:23, Romans 6:23, John 3:16, Romans 10:9-10, 1 John 1:9, and for assurance I like to use Hebrews 13:5b. "...I will never leave you, I will never forsake you..." I leave the card with them.

Love Continued

1 Thessalonians 1:2-10

God is love. The believers at Thessalonica learned that truth and began to follow Paul's example. They faithfully witnessed to others in the area about the gospel and the love of God. We need to continually pray for missionary families and people at our church. (v.2) Since we know Christ personally, it should motivate us to obey and serve Him. The Holy Spirit aids us in many ways. His Presence gives us the assurance we need to witness to just the right person, and the Scripture to meet their needs. Some believers were persecuted, but they openly welcomed Paul and Silas as they preached. Their lives were a testimony to people they visited. Jesus was their role model. God's love was continually passed down to our generations. His love is our Legacy.

Personal note: I've enjoyed studying these lessons with you. Blessings... Betty Davis

Davis is a member of Fellowship Church, Meridian.

Bible Studies for Life

with Betty Davis



Just for the Record

► **Triple "R" Rally** (Romance, Reason, and Resurrection) will be held in Philadelphia on June 9-10. Romance session at the Neshoba County Coliseum is entitled, Intelligent Design, and begins at 7 p.m. on June 9. The Resurrection session, entitled Evidence of the Resurrection, will begin at 10 a.m. on June 10 at the Neshoba Associa-

tion building. Sean McDowell, speaker. Admission to all sessions is free. For more information, call (601) 656-3511.

► **First Church, McComb**, will host a Great is Thy Faithfulness concert featuring the piano artistry of Ed Sudduth, who is currently serving as the church's organist, beginning at 7 p.m. on June 14. Admission is free, and CDs of Sudduth's new release, Great is Thy Faithfulness, will be available. Sudduth retired in 2008 as the church's minister of senior adults.

who is currently serving as the church's organist, beginning at 7 p.m. on June 14. Admission is free, and CDs of Sudduth's new release, Great is Thy Faithfulness, will be available. Sudduth retired in 2008 as the church's minister of senior adults.

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Just for the Record



FIRST CHURCH, JACKSON, held a police officers/firefighters luncheon recently. Shown are police chief Rebecca L. Coleman, senior adult minister Tom Washburn, and mayor Harvey Johnson.



ELLARD CHURCH, CALHOUN ASSOCIATION, children and youth released balloons on Easter Sunday with a message of the true meaning of Easter. One response from Morgan Chapel Church in Sturgis has been received thus far.



CRYSTAL RIDGE CHURCH IN LOUISVILLE honored their graduating seniors on May 6. Pastor Charles Rook (back center), presented each senior with a Bible (from left): Madeline Fulcher, Linsey Dickerson, and Harli Eaves.



FIRST CHURCH, LAUREL, recognized Randy Turner (center) with a reception on May 6 on the occasion of his 20-year anniversary as pastor. Retired federal judge Charles W. Pickering (left) presented Turner and his wife Sharon (right) with a love offering from the congregation and a sabbatical for future use.

Acteens of **TYLER-TOWN CHURCH** recently held their end of the year recognition program for completing numerous Mission Action projects for the church, local hospital, community, and Veteran's Home in Collins. Pictured are Acteen members. The group is led by Carla Stringer.



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MONTH

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The new *We Love Life* car tag offers another prolife way to invest in the lives of women facing an unplanned pregnancy.

The *MS Baptist Christian Action Commission* supports this new tag and asks that if you haven't already, please pledge to purchase the new *We Love Life* tag today. 300 pre-sales are needed before the tag can go in to full production.

You can order the *We Love Life* tag at www.chooselifems.org or by calling 601-206-5816.